

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-19 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system for a plurality of lamp-operating devices that are arranged in a distributed manner ~~having~~ comprising:
  - [[ - ]] at least one control station [[ (1) ]],
  - [[ - ]] a control line [[ (2) ]] which connects the control station [[ (1) ]] to each lamp-operating device,
  - [[ - ]] and also having a receiver that is allocated to each lamp-operating device and is provided for the purposes of communication with the control station [[ (1) ]], with each lamp-operating device belonging to a first or a second type and with it being possible to join together lamp-operating devices of the first and of the second type to form functional couples, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the lamp-operating devices of the first type ~~(20-1, 20-2)~~ are configured and connected to the lamp-operating device of the second type ~~(10-1 to 10-4)~~, respectively allocated to them, in such a way that they can selectively activate or deactivate the lamp-operating device of the second type ~~(10-1 to 10-4)~~ in accordance with a request of the control station [[ (1) ]].

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to claim 1, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2) of a functional couple has a controllable switch ~~[(23)]~~ that interrupts the current supply for the associated lamp-operating device of the second type (10-1 to 10-4).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to claim 2, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ all the lamp-operating devices are connected to common current supply lines (3, L, N, PE), with the phase ~~[(L)]~~ for a lamp-operating device of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) being guided through the associated lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1 to 20-2).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to claim 2 ~~[[or 3]]~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the lamp-operating devices of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) are configured in such a way that after an interruption and subsequent re-establishment of the current supply a specified switched-on operating state is automatically taken up.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to claim 4, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the lamp-operating devices of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) in the switched-on operating state operate an allocated light source (30-1 to 30-4) at 100% of the maximum brightness.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to ~~one of the previous claims claim 1, wherein characterised in that~~ the lamp-operating devices of the first type (20-1, 20-2) and also the lamp-operating devices of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) of a functional couple have respective supply lines (11a, 11b, 21a, 21b) which can be selectively connected to a light source (30-1 to 30-4) that is to be operated by the lamp-operating devices.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to claim 6, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the light source (30-1 to 30-4) that is to be operated is a gas discharge lamp, in particular a fluorescent lamp, with it being possible to connect the supply lines (11a, 11b, 21a, 21b) of the lamp-operating devices to the heating filaments (30a, 30b) of the gas discharge lamp.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to claim 6 [[or 7]], ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the supply lines (11a, 11b) of the lamp-operating device of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) are guided through the associated lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2), with the lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2) having internal circuit units (22a, 22b) for the selective connection of the supply lines (11a, 11b, 21a, 21b) to the light source (30-1 to 30-4) that is to be operated.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to ~~one of claims claim 6 [[to 8]], wherein characterised in that~~ the lamp-operating device of the first

type (20-1, 20-2) is an emergency light lamp-operating device and the lamp-operating device of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) is a normal lamp-operating device, with the emergency light lamp-operating device (20-1, 20-2) having a monitoring circuit arrangement which detects the state of the current supply and when an emergency is identified automatically initiates the activation of the light source (30-1 to 30-4) by means of the emergency light lamp-operating device (20-1, 20-2).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Control~~ A control system according to claim 9, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the emergency light lamp-operating device (20-1, 20-2) has a battery or an accumulator, whose energy is used to activate the light source (30-1 to 30-4) in the emergency.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for initializing a control system for a plurality of lamp-operating devices that are arranged in a distributed manner and each of which belongs to a first or a second type, with it being possible for lamp-operating devices of the first and the second type to be joined together to form functional couples that are connected in such a way that the lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2) can activate and deactivate the associated lamp-operating device of the second type (10-1 to 10-4), in which case the initialization is to bring about a situation where a control station [(1)], which is connected to all the lamp-operating devices by way of a common control line [(2)], obtains information on which lamp-operating devices

form a respective functional couple, and with the method ~~having~~ comprising the following steps:

a) the control station  $[(1)]$  communicates with all the lamp-operating devices in order to ascertain from each an already existing address and/or to allocate to each a new address and, furthermore, in order to ascertain from all of the lamp-operating devices the respective type;

b) the control station  $[(1)]$  calls up a certain lamp-operating device of the first type  $(20-1, 20-2)$  under its address established in accordance with step a) and gives it the command to deactivate an associated lamp-operating device of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  - if such a device is present;

c) the control station  $[(1)]$  successively calls up the lamp-operating devices of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  under their addresses established in accordance with step a) and gives them the command to deliver a response signal;

d) the control station  $[(1)]$  establishes whether a lamp-operating device of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  has delivered no response signal and - if so - which one and registers that a lamp-operating device of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  identified in this way forms a functional couple with the lamp-operating device of the first type  $(20-1, 20-2)$ , which was called up in accordance with step b); and

e) the steps b) to d) are repeated calling up every other lamp-operating device of the first type  $(20-1, 20-2)$  until all the lamp-operating devices of the first type  $(20-1, 20-2)$  have been called up.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ after the identification and allocation of a lamp-operating device of the second type (~~10-1 to 10-4~~) to a lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2) in step d) the corresponding lamp-operating device of the second type (~~10-1 to 10-4~~) is re-activated.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 11, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ lamp-operating devices of the second type (~~10-1 to 10-4~~) that have already previously been allocated to a lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2) are not contacted in step c) by the control station [[[1]]].

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for initializing a control system for a plurality of lamp-operating devices that are arranged in a distributed manner and each of which belongs to a first or a second type, with it being possible for lamp-operating devices of the first and the second type to be joined together to form functional couples that are connected in such a way that the lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2) can activate and deactivate the associated lamp-operating device of the second type (~~10-1 to 10-4~~), in which case the initialization is to bring about a situation where a control station [[[1]]], which is connected to all the lamp-operating devices by way of a common control line [[[2]]], obtains information on which lamp-operating devices form a respective functional couple, and with the method ~~having~~ comprising the following steps:

a) the control station  $[[1]]$  communicates with all the lamp-operating devices in order to ascertain from each an already existing address and/or to allocate to each a new address and, furthermore, in order to ascertain from all of the lamp-operating devices the respective type;

b) the control station  $[[1]]$  calls up a certain lamp-operating device of the first type  $(20-1, 20-2)$  under its address established in accordance with step a) and gives it the command to deactivate an associated lamp-operating device of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  - if such a device is present;

c) the control station  $[[1]]$  calls up all the lamp-operating devices of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  and gives them the command to take up a specified operating state;

d) the control station  $[[1]]$  calls up the lamp-operating device of the first type  $(20-1$  to  $20-2)$  that was contacted in step a) and gives it the command to re-activate the associated lamp-operating device of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  - if present - and to take up a switched-on operating state that differs from the operating state specified in step c);

e) the control station  $[[1]]$  determines the current operating states of all the lamp-operating devices of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$ , establishes whether a lamp-operating device of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  has an operating state that differs from the operating state specified in step c) and - if so - which one and registers that a lamp-operating device of the second type  $(10-1$  to  $10-4)$  identified in this way forms a functional couple with the lamp-operating device of the first type  $(20-1, 20-2)$  that was called up in accordance with step b)  $[[,]]$ ; and

f) the steps b) to e) are repeated calling up every other lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2) until all the lamp-operating devices of the first type (20-1, 20-2) have been called up.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 14, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ the control station [(1)] no longer determines in step e) the current operating states of those lamp-operating devices of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) that have already previously been allocated to a lamp-operating device of the first type (20-1, 20-2).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 14 [[or 15]], ~~characterised in that~~ wherein in order to determine the operating states of the lamp-operating devices in step e) the control station [(1)] successively calls up the lamp-operating devices of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) under their addresses established in accordance with step a) and gives them the command to signal their current operating state.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 14 [[to 16]], wherein ~~characterised in that~~ a lamp-operating device of the second type (10-1 to 10-4) in the switched-on operating state operates an associated lamp at 100% of the lamp capacity, with the operating state specified in step c) representing a lamp operation at a capacity that differs therefrom.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~[[to17]]~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the lamp-operating devices of the second type ~~(10-1 to 10-4)~~ are deactivated by an interruption of the current supply.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method according to ~~one of claims~~ claim 11 ~~[[to18]]~~, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ allocated to the determined functional couple consisting of a lamp-operating device of the first type ~~(20-1, 20-2)~~ and also a lamp-operating device of the second type ~~(10-1 to 10-4)~~ there is a common operating address under which the functional pair can be contacted.